

Serial No. 10/733,740
Atty. Doc. No. 2003P15291US

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application, and claims 5 and 13-21 have been allowed. Thus, claims 1-4 and 6-12 are presented for examination. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the presented claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Response To Rejections Under Section 103:

Claims 1-4 and 6-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Examiner contending that these claims are obvious over Longo (USPN 3,607,343) in view of what would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time the invention was made, Japan 2002-275615, or Spitzberg (USPAP 2003/0027012)

Longo discloses a conventional high temperature high velocity spray process. In particular, Longo explains in column 1 lines 35-40 that the process can use either a plasma-type gun or the power-type gun described in USPN 2,961,335, which, in turn, teaches in column 2 lines 5-6 that the gun is useful for "materials of extremely high melting points" such as zirconia, and further teaches in column 3 lines 29-39 that the gun provides the "conventional high forward linear velocity component" which "may be as high as the speed of sound". Applicants parenthetically note that column 4 lines 15-26 of Longo discusses the temperature of the substrate, not the temperature of the spray.

In contrast, Applicants claim a method of applying a composite powder thermal barrier coating via a low velocity oxygen fuel (LVOF) process. As explained in Applicants' specification, the high temperature, high particle velocity, and/or high sound energy levels of

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prior art plasma and HVOF spray processes, such as Longo, render them unsuitable for Applicants' claimed invention. See e.g. spec. page 4 lines 18-2, page 2 lines 16-20.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-4 and 6-12 are patentable.


Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including the fees specified in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 (c), 1.17(a)(1) and 1.20 for total claims in excess of 20, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

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